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change the sound. A correct notation must be able to indicate all these particulars with perfect accuracy. But these considerations preclude at once the idea that any *one* symbol could be used to represent each sound; "*we must symbolize not sounds, but elements of sounds*" (p. 7). At the same time the symbols used must be such as can easily be printed and they must be perspicuous.

The author's purpose, as here outlined, has been admirably accomplished. By an ingenious combination of Greek and Latin characters, Arabic numerals, and other signs which are found in every well-equipped printing office, he has succeeded in giving us a system of sound-notation quite as accurate as are the symbols of chemistry. The system provides in the minutest manner for a symbolization of all the essential processes involved in the formation of speech-sounds. Indeed, the scheme is so elaborate that it is impossible to give a sketch of it within the limits of a review. The general outline is given (on p. 12) as follows: "Everything that takes place in the several active organs of speech is written on separate *lines* above each other. These lines are numbered by the help of the Greek alphabet, α meaning the lips, β the tip of the tongue, and so on, proceeding inwards. On the lines are written *numerals* (Arabic and Roman) to indicate the size and shape of the configurative aperture; and to these numerals are added, by way of exponents, Roman letters, denoting the place of greatest narrowness. Here, as in the case of the Greek letters, we number the various positions *a, b, c*, etc., from the lips inwardly to the throat. The various positions of these exponents indicate smaller divisions in the acting organs, for which it has not been found necessary to create separate lines." This summary statement conveys but a very imperfect idea of the excellence of the system. Let me quote a single example, to show its practical applicability. The combination *un* is symbolized (p. 35) in the following manner:—

$$\begin{array}{l|l} \alpha 3^a & '' \\ \beta g & '' \\ \gamma 3_j & '' \\ \delta o & 2 \\ \epsilon i & '' \\ \zeta 4 & '' \end{array}$$

which, in order to save space, might also be written,

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{cccccc} \alpha 3^a & \beta g & \gamma 3_j & \delta o & \epsilon i & \zeta 4 \\ ,, & oe & ,, & 2 & i & \zeta 4 \end{array} \right\}$$

It will be seen that the success of such a scheme is imperilled by its very elaborateness. It is not easily acquired, and necessitates a closer analysis of sounds than is customary. To apply the system to the transcription of texts of any length is quite out of the question, nor is such the purpose of the author. "What it claims is merely to provide the means of writing down phonetic minutiae in a comparatively easy and unambiguous manner; it will consequently be specially useful as a means of supplying a key for systems of transcription with our common letters adapted to particular sound systems, and of avoiding the defects of the usual phonetic terminology in discussions about the formation and history of speech-sounds. What it gives is not so much a set of readable symbols as half mathematical formulas of the different organs, and thereby enabling the phonetician to calculate what sound is meant." I have myself applied the transcription to some of the changes involved in the history of French sounds, and have been agreeably rewarded by finding what had before been obscure standing out in a much clearer light, when viewed under this new aspect.

This alphabetic mode of transcription is heartily to be recommended to all students of phonetics. The attempt is certainly in the right direction. To close with the author's own words (p. 39): "Let those who may find fault with them (a list of sounds, pp. 39 et seq.) . . . analyze and describe them more correctly by the help either of my notation or of some other that allows the same or a greater degree of exactness."

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The Absolute Participle in Anglo-Saxon. A Dissertation presented to the Board of University Studies of the Johns Hopkins University for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. By MORGAN CALLAWAY, JR., Ph.D. Baltimore, 1889. 8vo, pp. 52.

In the January number of MOD. LANG. NOTES I said of LOGEMAN'S 'The Rule of S.

Benet': "It may be mentioned in passing that this work is . . . a reproach to those (i. e. the universities) of our own country, which have never yet, to my knowledge, produced a doctoral dissertation of equal value on an Old English subject—at least none that, by attaining the dignity of print, has afforded equal instruction or stimulus to other investigators." At that time I could not foresee how soon I should be compelled to sign at least a partial retraction. The monograph before me is the one for which I had been vainly looking, or in any case so nearly fulfils the demands which I, in common with many other patriotic students, had been hopefully cherishing, that we are not likely to quarrel over a slight deficit or overplus. It is pleasant to think, nay it is significant too, that DR. CALLAWAY comes honestly by his learning and his love for English, being at once a Southerner and the son of a Professor of English. None of us ought to forget that it is to THOMAS JEFFERSON that we owe the first positive impulse toward Old English studies in America, nor that the South has, since JEFFERSON's time and before, displayed a love for the English classics and a concern for intelligent English teaching which have not always and everywhere been common at the North. When I was at the Johns Hopkins University, some of the most zealous and appreciative of my advanced students were from Kentucky and the Carolinas, and one of them, MR. W. D. McCLEINTOCK, of Kentucky, has since become much more widely known, having for several years had charge of the English instruction at the Chautauqua Summer School of Languages, a responsibility which he has discharged to the increasing satisfaction of his students and his colleagues.—But to return to our monograph, the purpose of which is thus announced in the preface:

"An attempt is here made to give a history of the Absolute Participle in Anglo-Saxon. The frequency of this construction, its uses, its origin, and its stylistic value at once present themselves as questions pertinent to our inquiry and are accordingly discussed at length and as far as possible definitely answered. As contributing to a correct understanding of the Absolute Participle in Anglo-Saxon, a few pages are devoted to the same construction in the other Teutonic languages:

which, it need hardly be added, rest entirely upon the investigations of others.

The treatment of the subject proper is based upon a careful reading of the most important Anglo-Saxon texts accessible to the writer. By a reference to page 3 it will be seen what these are and that they include all the poetical monuments and practically all the purely literary prose monuments as yet published. In addition to this, the originals of all translations have been read, so far as they are definitely known; statistics have been taken of all absolute participles occurring in the same, and these have been compared with the corresponding translations in Anglo-Saxon."

The promise of the preface is faithfully fulfilled, and the student who bases his expectations on this announcement will not be disappointed when he sets about the mastery of the pamphlet. With this statement we might conclude, were not the combination of qualities here manifested so rare as to deserve special comment. In the first place, then, the paper may be called statistical, since it bristles with figures and citations. This is always a good sign, in so far as it gives evidence of patience and industry on the part of the investigator, and a disposition to submit any preconceived notions of his own to the arbitrament of facts. It is a bad sign whenever it reveals an incapacity to deal intelligently with the facts thus collected. In other words, there are good index-makers that have no aptitude for scholarship, in any large and liberal meaning of this much-abused but noble word. They are often useful purveyors of the raw materials of scholarship to others, without possessing a single qualification which would enable them to convert these materials into a finished product. Such is not the case with the author of this paper, whose capacity for a comprehensive treatment of his subject appears in his willingness to read the whole Old English literature, prose and poetical, with the care necessary for the collection of his examples; in that acquaintance with another language which enables him to check translations by their originals; in his familiarity with the inductive processes upon which modern science insists; in the healthy common-sense which leads him to obvious and natural classifications, rather than to supersubtle displays of his own ingenuity; in his utilization of the comparative method, as shown in his

inclusion of the other Germanic languages within the scope of his survey; and in his endeavor after philosophical treatment of the phenomena involved, considered with reference to their stylistic effect and psychological bearing, in its appropriate place near the end of his monograph. The catalogue of his qualifications is also a synopsis of his work, or at least may serve as a commentary on the author's own statement in the preface. It should be added that he has summarized his results at the very end of his paper, and thus provided for the student who may lack leisure or inclination to follow him through the details of his subject. Dr. CALLAWAY, who is now Professor of English in the Southwestern University, Georgetown, Texas, acknowledges special obligations to Dr. BRIGHT and Professor GILDERSLEEVE, to the former in his dedication, and to the latter in his chapter on "The Anglo-Saxon Absolute Participle as a Norm of Style"; and it is no disparagement of the pupil, while it is simple justice to his masters, to say that the influence of both is clearly perceptible in the production with which he makes his auspicious entry into the field of English scholarship.

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SOME RECENT GERMAN TEXT-BOOKS.

The first volume among recent German books on our table which we wish to notice is SCHILLER'S 'Der Neffe als Onkel,' edited by Professor RADDATZ (Boston: Allyn & Bacon). The Introduction is short and to the point. This alone would do much toward influencing us in favor of the book. The notes are above the average quality, and a complete vocabulary is appended. Throughout, the reformed spelling has been used, and exceptions to the general rules for accentuation are marked by the acute accent. The little volume will be very acceptable, for no good edition of this comedy has hitherto been published in this country. Typography, binding, and general appearance do credit to the publishers.

HOFFMANN'S 'Historische Erzählungen,' edited by Mr. BERESFORD-WEBB (Boston:

D. C. Heath & Co.) will be a valuable addition to courses in historical prose. There are only four selections: "Conradin of Suabia," "The End of Charles the Bold," "The Execution of Louis XVI. and his Queen," and "The Franco-German War." They are written in a pure and easy style and are short enough to sustain the interest. The last extract, which contains thirty of the seventy pages of text, is undoubtedly the most attractive. A commendable feature of these "tales from history" is the "Index to Notes."

Mr. BABBITT'S edition of HOLBERG'S 'Niels Klim's Wallfahrt in die Unterwelt' (Boston: D. C. Heath & Co.) will be found useful as a text-book for rapid reading or for sight translation with advanced students. It has been cut down so that it covers about sixty pages. We are glad that Mr. BABBITT has, as it may be said, introduced HOLBERG to the American public, for he is an author about whom we know too little. In Germany he became best known through his comedies, which GOTTSCHED recommended as models for the German stage, at the same time comparing them with the masterpieces of MOLIÈRE. The story under consideration was written at first in Latin. To use the words of the editor: "It contains a tremendous flagellation of various abuses in church and state, and aroused in its time a great deal of indignation on both sides." There is something so entertaining and fascinating in the narration that one is tempted to finish it at a single reading. We find many wise thoughts dropped here and there, among which the following will be of practical use to teachers: "Unter die Eigenschaften, die bei einem Schulmanne zur glücklichen Führung seines Berufs am meisten beitragen, gehört gewiss die Sanftmuth und Geduld. Denn sein ganzer Reichthum an gelehrten Kenntnissen hilft ihm nichts, wenn er nicht damit eine eiserne Geduld verbindet." All students will regret that Mr. BABBITT devotes less than a page to the elucidation of difficulties, of which there are not a few.

We can not refrain from saying a word in commendation of the 'German Scientific Monographs,' edited, with notes, by Professor SEIDENSTICKER (New York: Henry Holt & Co.). The first essay is Professor HELM-